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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/037,445	12/31/2001	Jacquelyn Martino	US 010685	4835

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BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

ROBINSON, GRETA LEE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2168	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
08/14/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/037,445	MARTINO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Greta L. Robinson	2168	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 May 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3-6,8-11,13-15 and 21-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-15, 21, 22 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Acknowledgement is made of Applicant's response filed May 29, 2007. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-15, 21, 22 and 23 are pending in the present application.
2. Claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended. Claims 2, 7, 12, 16-20 and 24 are cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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4. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-15, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiyoshi US Patent 6,601,067 B1 in view of Schindler US Patent 6,199,064 B1.

Regarding claim 1, Hiyoshi teaches a system for producing a list of results, the system comprising "a sort controller receiving a plurality of information items regarding content" note *sort/merge processor 10* figure 1. Hiyoshi teaches *input files* for receiving a plurality of information, information is read through *file reading unit 15* figure 1. Hiyoshi teaches "wherein, to produce the list of results, the sort controller sorts the information items" note *sort/merge execution unit 18* figure 1, also see column 4 lines 10-20. Hiyoshi does not specifically teach "primary sort key and a secondary sort key derived from predetermined user sorting preferences for a current user task context and content type", however this feature is taught by Schindler. Schindler teaches items are sorted by the value of their context and that the context is used to define the primary sort key and the secondary sort key [see: column 7 lines 45-65 items are sorted by the value of their context ; column 8 lines 39-66; and column 11 lines 30-39 "using the context to define the primary sort key" and "deriving a secondary sort key"]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to have combined Schindler with Hiyoshi because Schindler teaches how the primary and secondary sort keys are derived from a function of the context for sorting which is predetermined.

5. Regarding claim 3, "wherein a primary sort key is selected by the user and a secondary sort key is selected based on the nature of the current user task" [note: Hiyoshi

Figure 1 rule setting unit 14 and extraction criteria 13; also note Schindler, col. 11 lines 29-39].

6. Regarding claim 4, "wherein a change in the current user task context is inferred from a change of the primary sort key by the user" [see: Schindler Figure 9 (435)].
7. Regarding claim 5, "wherein the plurality of information items are displayed in an order determined by the sort controller" [note: Hiyoshi, column 4 lines 28-32 and lines 53-55].
8. The limitations of claims 6 and 8-10 have been addressed above except for the following: an audio receiver, Internet access, and remote control device [note: Hiyoshi input device 28 figure 2, column 5 lines 25-34].
9. The limitations of method claims 11 and 13-15 parallel system claims 1 and 3-5; therefore they are rejected under the same rationale.
10. Regarding claims 21-23, a user interface communicably coupled to the sort controller to receive user input identifying the current user task context [note: Hiyoshi, column 4 lines 40-55; also note interface 26 Figure 2].

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed May 29, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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In the response Applicant argued, independent claims 1, 6 and 11 recite sorting information items using a primary sort key and a secondary sort keys derived from predetermined user sorting preferences for current user task context and a content type. Applicant argued the secondary reference, Schindler does not teach predetermined user sorting preferences for a current user task context and content type. However the examiner respectfully disagrees. Schindler teaches "using the context to define the primary sort key" and "deriving a secondary sort key" see column 11 lines 30-39. Schindler's teaching of the *ability to define the sort key* provides for the limitation of "predetermined user preference". Schindler provides for the concept of information items being sorted by the value of their context through bucketsort function and gives an example see column 7 lines 45-65 and Figure 9 step 425 SORT DATA BY CONTEXT.

Applicant is reminded that during patent examination the pending claims are given the broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the supporting disclosure. *In re Morris*, 127 F. 3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Language that suggests or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed or does not limit a claim to a particular structure does not limit the scope of a claim. In the present case a statement of intended use or field of use is not limiting.

Applicant's amendment, however overcomes the rejections cited under 35 USC 101 and 35 USC 112 second paragraph.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

MacGregor et al. US Patent 5,396,621

Fenton et al. US Patent 6,976,028 B2

Schirmer et al. US Patent 6,829,615 B2

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

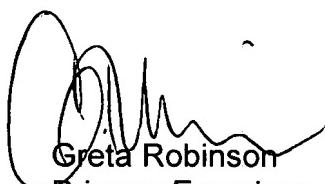
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greta L. Robinson whose telephone number is (571)272-4118. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30AM-6:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim T. Vo can be reached on (571)272-3642. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Greta Robinson
Primary Examiner
August 09, 2007